1. *An Account of a* Roman Monument *found in the* Biſhoprick *of* Durham, *and of ſome* Roman *Antiquities at* York, *ſent in a Letter from* Martin Liſter *Eſq;*

I have with much trouble got into my hands a Piece of *Roman Antiquity*, which was but a very few years ago diſcovered upon the South Bank of the River *Tine*, near the *Sheilds* in *Biſhoprick*. It is a very large and fair *Roman Altar* of one entire Stone. But after all my coſt and pains, I am very ſorry to find the Inſcription very ill defaced, that much of it is not legible. And I believe it hath been alſo miſ-handled by thoſe who have endeavoured to read it; whereas if the remainder of the Letters had been exactly meaſured, and the face blackt and lightly waſht off again, as in Prints, ſome things more might have been ſpelled.

As to the nature of the Stone it ſelf, it is of a courſe *Rag*, the ſame with that of the *Pyramids* at *Burrow-Briggs*. It is 4 foot high, and was aſcended to by ſteps, which appeareth in that all the ſides, but the Front, have two ſquare holes near the bottome, which let-in the Irons that joyn'd it to the Steps.

I have carefully deſigned it in all it's ſides, and have given the Plane of the Top alſo; which if you pleaſe we will ſurvey in order.

1. The Back-ſide, oppoſite to the Inſcription; on which is ingraven in Baſſe-reliefe, a *Flower-pot* furniſhed, I ſuppoſe with what pleaſed the Stone-cutter, for theſe men needed not to be more curious than the Prieſts themſelves, who were wont to make uſe of Herbs next hand to adorn the Altars, and therefore *Verbenæ* is put for any kind of Herb. Yet if we will have it reſemble any thing with us, I think it moſt like, if not truly *Nymphæa*, a known and common River Plant.

2. One

2. One of the ſides, which is ſomewhat narrower than the Front or Back: on this are engraved in Baſſ-relieve, the *Cutting-knife* (*ceſeſpita*) and the *Ax* (*ſecuris*). The Knife is exactly the ſame with that on the other Altar formerly by me mentioned in the Philoſophical Collections of Mr. *Hooke*; but the Ax is different; for here it is headed with a long and crooked point, and there the head of the Ax is divided into 3 points.

3. The other ſide; on which are engraved after the ſame manner an *Eure* (*Vrceolus*) and a *Ladle*, which ſerve for a *Sympullum*. This I call rather a *Ladle*, than a *Mallet*, it being perfectly Diſh-wiſe and hollow in the middle, altho *Camden* is of an other opinion in that elegant *Sculpt* of the *Cumberland* Altar. And the very ſame Utenſil I have ſeen and noted on the *Ickley* Altar, which is yet extant at *Middleton Grange* near that Town; but the Stone which *Cambden* ſaies ſupports a pair of Stairs there (as at this day it does in the very Road) is but an ill Copy of it, and not the Original.

4. The Plane of the Top; which is cut in the Figure of a *Baſon* (*diſcus* or *lanx*,) with *anſæ* on each ſide, conſiſting of a pair of links of a chain, which reſt upon, and fall over two Rowles; And this was the *Harth*.

5. The Front; which hath an Inſcription of nine lines in Roman Letters, each Letter a very little more than two inches deep of our meaſure; now remaining as in the prefixt Sculpture, *Fig.* 5. which I would read thus, *Dis deabuſq; Matribus pro Salute M. Aurelii Antonini Auguſti Imperatoris — votum ſolvit lubens lubens meritò ob reditum.*

The *Deæ Matres* are well interpretted by *Selden*. It is much his Safety and Return both vowed, ſhould be ſo ſeperated in the Inſcription; but I have not *Gruter* by me to compare this with the like. *Caracalla* ſay the Hiſtorians * after his Fathers death at *York*, took upon him the Command of the Army alone, and the whole Empire; he went alone againſt the Enemie, who were the *Caledonij* inhabiting

* *Xiphilinus Herodianus &c.*

inhabiting beyond the Wall which his Father had built, he made Peace with them, recieved their Hoſtages, ſlighted their fortified places, and returned. And this ſeems to be confirmed by the Inſcription; for undoubtedly upon this his laſt Expedition of him alone, without his Brother *Geta* and *Mother*, was this Altar erected to him alone, at a place about Two Stations on this ſide the Wall. So that the Vow might be as well underſtood of his Return from this expedition, as for his Safetie and return to *Rome*; which mi-thinks ſhould be true, or his Mother and Brother *Geta* would ſcarce have been left out, at leaſt ſo early. For yet the Army declared for them both, according to their Fathers Will.

Further, it ſeems alſo to have been erected by thoſe who flatter'd him, and who were afterwards killed by him; and for this reaſon the perſons Names, who dedicated it, ſeem to me to be purpoſely defaced, the 6 and 7th Lines of the Inſcription being deſignedly cut away by the hollowneſs of them, and there not being the leaſt ſign of any Letter remaining, and this I ſuppoſe might be part of their diſgrace, as it was uſual to deface and break the Statutes and Monuments of perſons executed, of which this Monſter made ſtrange havoc.

But ſince worn Inſcriptions admit of various readings, becauſe ſome Letters are worn out, and ſome more legible, whereby not prejudiced people may conceive them diverſly, I will therefore tell you an other reading of part of the two firſt lines, which I do not diſallow, but that it will agree well enough with the Hiſtory of *Severus*, tho his *Apotheoſis*, or ſolemn deification, was not performed till he came to *Rome*, in the manner of which Funeral Pomp *Herodian* is very large; it was of that excellent Antiquarie Dr. *Johnſon* of *Pomfret*

CONSERVATO
RI. B. PROS &c.
The reſt as follows in mine,

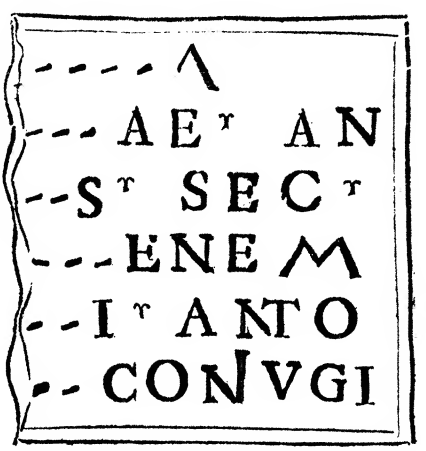
which

Which ſhews the hight of Flattery of thoſe times. So that they paid their Vowes to the lately dead Father the Conſervator of *Britain*, for the ſafety of the Son; and the Story tells us how gladly he would have had him made a God long before, even with his own hand.

I think it not amiſs, if I give you the reſt of my Obſervations concerning theſe matters, which I have met with in this City.

1. A large *Pedeſtal* of the ſame ſort of Stone, found deep in the ground, on the Weſt ſide of the River, which by the Stone, and its mouldings, was undoubtedly *Roman*, and muſt have been for a Pillar in ſome large building.

2. A Broken Inſcription in the Church-wall in *All-Saints* North-ſtreet, with the Figure of a Naked Woman in Baſs-relieve on the left ſide of it. The Letters (as many of them as remain) are exceeding fairly cut, beyond any thing I have yet ſeen of *Roman* Antiquities in *England*, and the Stone of a finer grain than ordinary. It is a Monument of *Conjugal Affection*.



The firſt ſtroak is the out-ſide of a great M, and is part of the *Dis Manibus*. The three laſt lines may be read thus, *Benè merenti Antonio Conjugi*: Yet it is hard to ſay, whether

ther it was for the Husband or Wife, for it may be read *Antoniæ*. The Points alſo betwixt the words are here very ſingular, but this was the caprice of the *Stone-cutter*, who ſometimes alſo uſe a Leaf, hanging or erect, a Hand, a Feather, or ſuch odd fancy for Points.

An Abſtract of a Letter from Mr. Anthony Leewenhoeck *writ to* Sir *C. W.*

Jan. 22. 168$\frac{2}{3}$. *from* Delft.

HAving lately met with a Book publiſhed by a Phyſitian of our *Country*, which treats of Humane *Generation*, and the *Egg-branch* as it is found in Women-kind, and not doubting but what is there ſaid, is alſo applicable to Four-footed Beaſts, I examin'd (in the preſence of a *Phyſitian* and other learned Perſons as well as alone) the *Egg-branches* of ſeveral *Lambs* of a year old, that had been ſeveral Months in the Winter kept in a Stall for fatting, ſeperated from the *Ramms*. From what I have hitherto found I cannot but wonder why it ſhould be generally believed, That the *Tuba Fallopiana* does draw, or ſuck down an *Egg* from the *Egg-branch*, thro ſo narrow a paſſage, as I ſhew'd the *Tuba Fallopiana* to have. Conſidering therewithal that ſome of the *Eggs* were as big as Peaſe, and others as large as the whole *Egg-branch*: That they were made up of Glandulous parts interwoven with Blood-Veſſels, and were ſhut up ſo faſt in their Skins or Membranes that I could not with my Nails tear one of them from the *Egg-branch*: That ſome of them conſiſted of very irregular and unlike parts, which were in ſome places incloſed in particular Skins, and had not at all the ſhape of an *Egg*: That ſome of them which ſtood out beyond the reſt were burſt open; and yet when I went to pull them

off

Fig. 2.

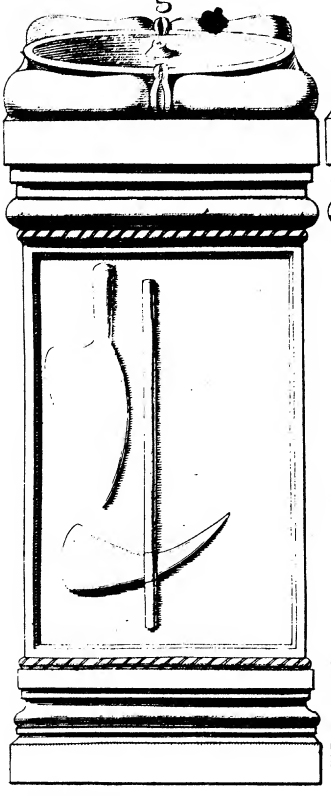


Fig. 5.

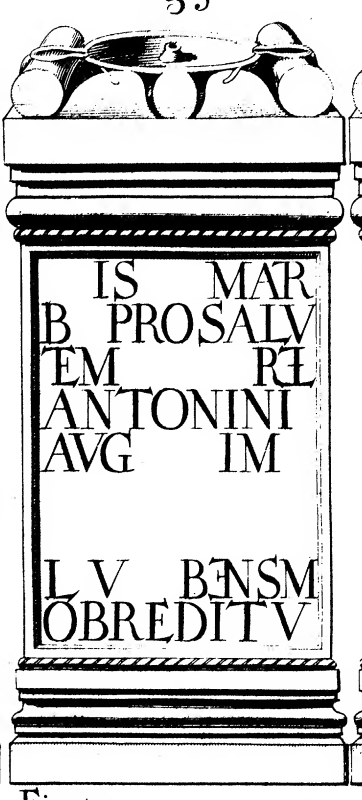


Fig. 1.

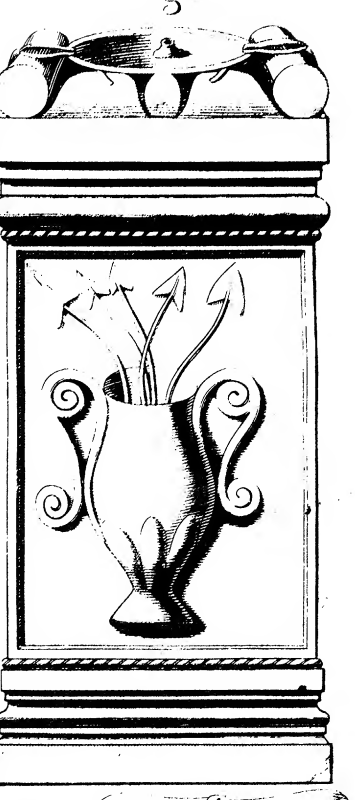


Fig. 3.

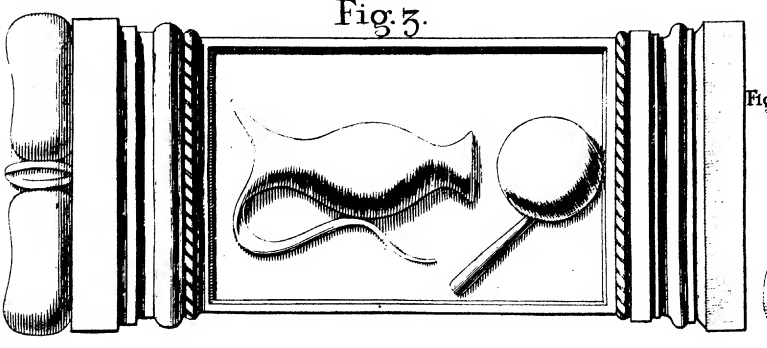
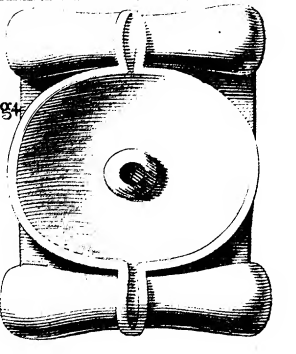



Fig. 4.